Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /067 W

R 190911Z JUL 76 FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1867 INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA AMCONSUL BUKAVU

CONFIDENTIAL LUBUMBASHI 106

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ECON, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA LABOR PROBLEMS DURING MOBUTU VISIT

- 1. GECAMINES WORKERS AT SEVERAL SITES INTENDED STRIKE ON JULY 16 TO FOLLOW UP ON JUNE 16 REQUEST FOR HIGHER PAY, BUT WERE TOLD THEY WOULD BE FIRED IF THEY STRUCK. WORK SEEMS TO HAVE CONTINUED, BUT THERE ARE REPORTS OF SLOW DOWN.
- 2. PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS VISIT PLANNED TO LIKASI TODAY, JULY 17. HE VISITED KOLWEZI AND SMTF SITE OF TENKE FUNGURUME UPON RETURNING FROM OPENING CEREMONY OF TANZAM RAILROAD IN ZAMBIA. AIDE TO PRESIDENT SAID MOBUTU HAD BEEN QUITE IMPRESSED WITH SMTF OPERATION. WITH EXCEPTION OF VISITS LISTED, HE HAS SPENT ALMOST ENTIRE TIME SINCE HE ARRIVED JULY 10 AT HIS LUBUMBASHI RESIDENCE.
- 3. UNION LEADERS APPEAR TO BE AWAITING PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON WAGE INCREASES BEFORE PUSHING STRIKE ACTIVITY. IF PRESIDENT DEPARTS SHABA WITHOUT MAKING DECISION--OR PERHAPS CHOOSING UNPOPULAR COURSE--THERE ARE RUMORS THAT STRIKE WILL FOLLOW.
- 4. AT PRESENT LUBUMBASHI REMAINS QUIET. THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE TOWN WHICH MIGHT BE USED TO DETER STRIKERS.

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